

13 February 1975

One Man's Way of Describing the "Current Situation"

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STATINTL For what value, if any, it may have, the following outline was devised by me to relay the "current situation" to the [redacted] [redacted] I had previously used it as part of an evening session with the current Midcareer group.

The intellectual organization was, first, to put matters in current historical perspective; next describe the flurry of activity immediately subsequent to The New York Times article of 22 December 1974; the emergence of the three bodies of inquiry, plus the interest of the Department of Justice (referred to as a three and one-half ring circus); a description of the current ADD/Task Force wiring diagram; and then some speculation relative to the future.

In sequential order the points were as follows:

1. Allegations that occurred against the Agency concerning "Watergate."
2. The arrival of Schlesinger.
3. Schlesinger's directive to employees to march forward and tell all.
4. Compilation of the Agency "Family Jewels Paper."
5. Schlesinger having Colby make Stennis and Nedzi aware of the contents of that paper.
6. An analysis of the Hersh article of 22 December:
 - a. The article consists of two different tracks, each unrelated to the other.
 - b. One track is the [redacted] The second track is a series of somewhat unrelated and unconnected ad hoc matters, some of which go back 20 years.
 - c. An apparent endeavor by Hersh to meld these two separate tracks into a single matrix.
7. The intensive activity by DD's, etc., up until mid-January to develop facts, prepare background and draft Colby's statement to the Presidential Commission.

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8. An analysis of definite charter and reporting dates of the Commission, Senate Committee (fifteen points), and proposed House Committee (seven points).

9. Identification of Hank Knoche's role.

10. Appointment of ADD group as a standing body.

11. Creation of a task force.

12. Most important that all employees understand some very basic matters:

a. Ambiguity and lack of preciseness of the law of 1947.

b. Problem inherent in "protection of intelligence methods and sources." Law assigns responsibility but mute on authority. Different Directors had different interpretations. The political environment that existed at given times, i.e., the burning of cities in '67 and '68, and the anti-war dissidency that followed led to some of the problems of interpretations.

13. It will be a long year. The Congressional Committee has a reporting date of 1 January 1976.

14. While matters started out solely involving the CIA, further newspaper disclosures repeatedly broadened the entire issue to the Community.

15. Out of it all we are hopeful that good may come and then we can settle down and get on with our basic job.

for John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration